

Appl. No. 10/917,029  
Reply to Office Action of: 02/20/2007

Attorney Docket No. 12400-006

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## II. Remarks

Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is herein respectfully requested.

After entering this amendment, claims 3-9 remains pending and claim 11 is allowed.

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

The undersigned acknowledges the Examiner's indication of the allowability of claim 11 and the objections to claims 3-6, 8 and 9 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, claims 3-6, 8 and 9 have been rewritten into independent form incorporating all of the limitations of claims 1 and 2, as appropriate, thereby placing them into condition for allowance. The dependency of withdrawn claim 7 has been amended to depend on allowable claim 3. Since claim 7 now depends on an allowable generic base claim, rejoinder of claim 7 is hereby respectfully requested. See MPEP 821.04. In addition, allowed claim 11 has been amended with minor grammatical changes.

In view of the above, it is submitted that these claims are allowable and such action is requested.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)*

Claims 1-2, 10 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,799,970 to Enders ("Enders") in view of

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U.S. Patent No. 6,554,312 to Sakane ("Sakane"). In light of the above amendments, it is respectfully submitted this rejection is now moot.

*Conclusion*

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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